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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/056,029	04/30/1993	JOSEPH S. BOYCE	FM-112J	1593
7590 10/07/2005 IANDIORIO & DINGMAN 260 BEAR HILL ROAD WALTHAM, MA 02154			EXAMINER YOUNG, MICAH PAUL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1618

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/056,029

Applicant(s)

BOYCE ET AL.

Examiner

Micah-Paul Young

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6,9-20,22 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6,9-20,22 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment of Papers Received: Response dated 7/2/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1-4,6,7,9-16,18-20,22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Scollard (USPN 4,861,643 hereafter '643) and Boyce et al (USPN 4,808,461 hereafter '461). The claims are drawn to a method of joining composite parts comprising disposing an adherent between the two parts and passing a reinforcing element through the composite parts.

4. The '643 patent discloses a method for joining composite airplane parts where the parts are reinforced and filled with an adherent and further cured (abstract). As seen in the figures, graphite composite parts 10 and 12 are joined by a void filler 29, which overflows into the space between the parts 28. Pressure is applied via shapers 26 and 27 and the two composite parts are held in position while the construct is cured. Reinforcing rivets 33 are drilled through rivet holes 22 to add addition support (col. 3, lin. 53 – col. 5, lin. 13); they are anchored in place after the curing process. The void filler is coated with brazing metals such as nickel or copper (col. 3, lin.

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25 – 34). The reference however differs from some of the claims. The '643 patent does not disclose the composite parts as prepreg parts, or the reinforcing elements as fibers.

5. The '461 patent discloses a method for reinforcing composite prepreg airline parts. As seen in figure 8, the reinforcing fiber elements 14', which run through the length of each composite part 56 to 60 and 58 to 60. However no adherent is added to the space between parts 56 and 58 when they are joined to part 60. Yet, a skilled artisan might be motivated to include an adherent as seen in '643 to fill in possible voids between the composite parts. The void filler, as seen in '643 would act as an adherent with the reinforcing fibers forced through the length of the prepreg parts in the Z axis direction. Since '461 applies heat and pressure to force the reinforcing elements through the composite parts, it would be within the level of skill in the art to continue the procedure for adhering two parts together as shown in figure 8.

6. The combination of art differs in the order of the reinforcing steps. However is has been held that the selection of any order of performing process steps is prima facie obvious in the absence of new or unexpected results. The Office does not have the facilities for examining and comparing applicant's product with the product of the prior art in order to establish that the product of the prior art does not possess the same material structural and functional characteristics of the claimed product. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the burden is upon the applicant to prove that the claimed products are functionally different than those taught by the prior art and to establish patentable differences. *See Ex parte Phillips*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1302, 1303 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1993), *Ex parte Gray*, 10 USPQ2d 1922, 1923 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int.) and *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 195 USPQ 430 (CCPA 1977). The combination of prior art provides a cured reinforced composite where the parts are reinforced with

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interstitially disposed elements, and a metallic brazing material is disposed between the composite parts. Burden is shifted to applicant to provide a patentable distinction between the instant claims and the combination of the art.

7. With these things in mind one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings and suggestions in order to provide improved z-directional reinforcement to composite parts. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine these teachings and suggestions with an expected result of a reinforced composite part useful in various structural capacities.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4,6,7,9-20,22,24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Micah-Paul Young whose telephone number is 571-272-0608. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30 every other Monday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on 571-272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MP Young

Micah-Paul Young
Examiner
Art Unit 1618



THURMAN K. PAGE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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